

Message Text

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PAGE 01 YAOUND 02864 071127Z

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ACTION AF-08

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FM AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9256

C O N F I D E N T I A L YAOUNDE 2864

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EAID, PFOR, MASS, ACOM, CM, US
SUBJ: MEETING WITH PRESIDENT AHIDJO ON RESPONSE TO CAMEROON AID
REQUESTS

REF: A) STATE 193355; B) STATE 190919; C) YAOUNDE 2417;
D) YAOUNDE 2712

1. AFTER PRESENTING US POSITION ON PUERTO RICO AND US-CORE
GROUP POSITION ON KOREA (REPORTED SEPTTEL), I OFFERED AHIDJO
SECRETARY'S LETTER TRANSMITTING URBAN LEAGUE SPEECH (REF B),
ABOUT WHICH AHIDJO HAD HEARD ON RADIO. I READ HIM PARAGRAPH
ABOUT "SERIOUS CONSIDERATION" OF SERIOUSLY FORMULATED MODEST
ARMS REQUESTS FROM FRIENDLY COUNTRIES LIKE KENYA AND ZAIRE,
AND USED THIS AS TRANSITION TO PRELIMINARY RESPONSE CONTAINED
IN REF A INSTRUCTIONS. I EMPHASIZED CONSTRAINTS, LIKELY TIME
LAG, AND UNCERTAINTIES RAISED BY ELECTION.

2. ON MILITARY ASSISTANCE, I EMPHASIZED LIKELY MODESTY OF
SCOPE IF ANY ASSISTANCE FORTHCOMING. I TOLD AHIDJO THAT I
HAVE REQUESTED APPOINTMENT WITH SECRETARY GENERAL OF PRESIDENCY
EBOUA FOR EARLY NEXT WEEK AND PROPOSED TO ASK HIM FOR PARTICULARS,
MENTIONING THAT EBOUA HAD INDICATED ON JULY 5 GURC WOULD
HAVE NO DIFFICULTY SUPPLYING THEM (REF C). AHIDJO SAID HE
WOULD TALK WITH EBOUA AND INSTRUCT HIM TO PROVIDE REQUIRED
INFORMATION.

3. ON INCREASED ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE, HE NODDED
APPRECIATIVELY WHEN I REFERRED TO EFFORTS TO PROMOTE USG
CONTRIBUTION TO TRANSCAM III AND INDICATED SLIGHT FAMILIARITY
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WITH EXPECTED WORLD BANK TRANSPORT CORRIDOR STUDY.

4. COMMENT: RECEPTION WAS FRIENDLY. AHIDJO INQUIRED ABOUT MY TRAVEL AND CONSULTATION PLANS. I EXPECT THAT WHEN I CALL UPON EBOUA WITH RETURNED DCM WE WILL FIND OUT HOW SOON GURC CAN PROVIDE PARTICULARS. UNLESS INSTRUCTED OTHERWISE, I PROPOSE NOT TO RAISE WATTS WITH EBOUA AT FIRST MEETING BUT TO LEAVE THAT TO CHARGE AFTER MY DEPARTURE AUGUST 13, I.E., AFTER APPROPRIATE INTERVAL FORESEEN IN REF D AND AFTER RECEIPT OF TECHNICAL MATERIALS POUCHES ACCORDING TO REF A. SPIRO

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